

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. A complete reorganization of the SED party training schools was instituted in March 1953, on the basis of plans worked out last year and decreed in a confidential resolution of the Politburo in January 1953. The rule has been laid down that for entrance into each party school the completion of the next lower school is a prerequisite. Students are not required to pass uninterruptedly through the entire series of schools, as this would take over six years: Factory or Office School (6 weeks), County School (3 months), District School (1 year), Central School (2 years), and finally Party University (3 years).
2. The Factory Schools (Betriebsparteischulen) are very numerous, about 40-50 in each district; the number was approximately doubled in the course of a year (1952 - 1953). Prospective students whose places of work have no schools are supposed to be assigned to schools in enterprises of the same branch of industry or business. Teachers were obtained for these schools from special six-month teachers' training courses, with 350 candidates in each, which were held at first in Kaulsdorf near Berlin and then in Spröda near Delitzsch.
3. The number of County Schools (Kreispartei-schulen) was reduced to 75 (about 5 per district), with a capacity of 60-100 students each. Several of the smaller schools of this grade were abolished or transformed into Factory or Office Schools.
4. There are 15 District Schools (Bezirksparteischulen), one in each district; their capacity is at least 100 students each, but both these and the County Schools have generally been filled to only about 75% of capacity. The first full year's course began on 15 March 1953. These schools are chiefly designed to train functionaries for the SED district organizations, district councils, and the mass organizations on the district level. The curriculum is more or less the same as in the former State Party Schools (Landespartei-schulen).¹

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5. There are only three Central Schools (Zentralschulen); one in Schwerin specializing in agriculture, one in Ballenstädt specializing in economics, and one in Erfurt specializing in administrative studies "and also aesthetics". These also opened on 15 March 1953, with 150 students each. The course in aesthetics is intended to train artists and teachers of art, who are to be made familiar with Soviet standards in art.
6. The Karl Marx Party University (Parteihochschule) in Kleinmachnow is the training school for the highest cadre of the party (it does not train teachers for the party schools). Party members cannot apply for admission to this school; the students are selected and assigned by the Institute for Social Sciences which is attached to the Central Committee of the party. The principal faculty members are:

Philosophy	Victor Stern
History	Walter Niemtz
Political Economy	vacant
History of the CPSU	"
Aesthetics	Marianne Lange
(field not indicated)	(fnu) Abraham
Extension courses	Heinz Kurtze

7. All students at the Party University are required to take either a state examination or a doctoral examination; furthermore, functionaries of the Central Committee and teachers at the Central Schools must complete the same requirement by home study before the end of 1956. For this purpose four major subjects are offered: Philosophy (minor in History of Philosophy), German History (minor in History of the Labor Movement), Political Economy (minor in Economy of Capitalism or Economy of Socialism), and History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (minor in Party Organisation). Study of the Russian language is compulsory; it is planned also to offer Polish and Czech if desired.

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